

**NPR-A
Integrated Activity Plan
Environmental Impact Statement**

Scoping Meeting

Nuiqsut

1997

NPR-A INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SCOPING MEETING
KISIK COMMUNITY CENTER
NUIQSUT, ALASKA
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1997
7:30 P.M.

(Note to Reader: Portions of this meeting were translated into Inupiat by Arnold Brower, Jr. of Barrow. The Inupiat translations are not included in these transcripts. Written testimony that was read during the meeting was not transcribed, but copies are attached, where indicated).

(Begin tape 1 - side 1)

LEONARD LAMPE: Opening Comments (inaudible)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR. - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: (inaudible)... from the Mayor's Office, North Slope Borough, myself, ... (inaudible)... Johnny Aiken, Karen Burnell, Jon Dunham, ... (inaudible)... Devin Bates, ... (inaudible)... Duncan Adams, who is a writer for the Arctic Sounder, ... (inaudible)...

TAQULIK OPIE - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: I just wanted to introduce Leonard Tuble, he's our newly hired subsistence specialist for the North Slope.

UNKNOWN: Where's Leonard, oh there he is, good for him, good for you, (laughter)...

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: I'll let Dee handle the federal employees, or BLM employees, whatever they may be.

DEE RITCHIE - BLM: We're happy to be here tonight and in Nuiqsut, Leonard said that, we've recognized that this is a village that is the most heavily impacted by this proposal and so we're happy to be here finally, you know we've tried, this is the third time, third time's a charm, so we're glad to be here, I hope it's worth your time to be here. Let me introduce some of the people that will participate in tonight's meeting or at least if not in any other way but to listen, but how do we want to handle the, you want to interpret this meeting, Arnold and Karen, or how do you want to do this?

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: I don't think the introduction needs too much, so after that I'll try to...

RITCHIE: You'll try to keep everything straight?

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Yeah.

RITCHIE: O.K. Let me introduce to you Curtis Wilson, Curtis Wilson is our chief planner from the Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage, Alaska and he'll be doing the overall planning work on this, he has a group that works with him, however, but he'll direct that work. We have with us tonight, also, Ray Emerson, some of you know Ray Emerson, Ray works for MMS, but has consented to let us use his team of experts in analysis to do the analysis, impact analysis on this project and so we're glad to have Ray with us tonight, and so we hope that his reputation hasn't preceded him too much here, however we're glad to have him, we recognize their expertise in this project. Dave Yokel, Dave Yokel is also a part of the planning team and analysis team and from BLM, he's a wildlife biologist by profession and that's what he'd like to stay, and so we're glad to have Dave with us tonight. We have Sharon Wilson, Sharon Wilson is the Public Affairs and External Affairs specialist for the BLM in Fairbanks, Dave's in Fairbanks with me, and Sharon worked really hard to set these meetings up and to be here to help record. And we have Anne Morkill who is going to be our facilitator tonight and will be taking your comments, and she and Sharon will make sure they're recorded and the meetings that we have gone to in the past, the past four, three or four meetings, they've done an excellent job in capturing that, and I hope that we can send you out and let you see all the issues that have come up, not only those tonight, but those that have come up in the other villages and in the other part of the state. I think you'll be impressed as I am about the concerns, the issues, and how things are going to be treated. Sharon?

SHARON WILSON: If I could say one thing, because we're taping it, it helps when you make a comment if you could either speak up or stand up when you talk, I know that's not always comfortable but try to project your voice a little bit so the tape, the microphone can pick them up. The borough is also taping and if you could possibly say your name, then when our transcriber does them, either that or Arnold, you're going to keep track with me.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: When is the translator going to speak, now? (laughter)

RITCHIE: Arnold is now speaking.....

RITCHIE: There are two other members of our team, they belong to the North Slope Borough organization and one is Arnold Brower, Jr. as he introduced himself, but he'll be a key player for you and for us, to gather the information that you have, and if you have any contact that you need to make with us, he's going to be working directly with the Bureau of Land Management and this process. Also, Tom Lohman is going to be working directly on this process from the Wildlife Management Department for the borough and we've worked a long time and have great confidence in the work that's done in the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department, we've worked for years with that group and also the Planning Department in the North Slope Borough, and just find excellent working relationship there and we

appreciate that very much, and we appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight to hear from you folks. To start out this evening, in the other meetings we've had and the feedback we have, I want to try and answer three questions for you. They may not be answered really well but, but these questions keep coming up time after time, the area involved, which is this northeast corner of the Petroleum Reserve, why that area? The reason that that area was chosen is because, you know the development that's happening around your community, and on both sides, nearly, and certainly in the delta, that's the next logical progress of the infrastructure, and so that's the reason for this area. Now why it went over to the Ikpiuk River, that was a decision made because there are some folks that thought we shouldn't look at the whole Petroleum Reserve at this time because of the time frame involved. That's the two reasons, right up front. The time frame is another thing that keeps coming up, why a short time frame? We're going to try and put our effort into this to do it in the next 18 months. That's a fast time frame for looking at this, so that time frame, just so that you'll all know, was chosen in a meeting by the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of this State. They wanted to try and have that done in November of 1998, and that's our target date. If you cut all everything away from that, that's a political decision, and we didn't have anything to do with that. We're going to try and meet it, we think we can do it, so with your help we can make that happen. The third question was, why now? And I kinda, I tried to answer that in the first part, is because we're feeling the, a little bit of the pressure and interest from industry wanting to move west, or having some looking west, from the Colville River delta and on west into the Petroleum Reserve. And that's why now, as you know and as we try and understand, this probably will end up in a lease sale, and from lease sale to development is several other years, so if we don't get started now, there may be a time lag when those resources may or may not be discovered or, and produced. So we're looking at a long time frame out ahead of us yet. Can you cover that Arnold?

RITCHIE: Just a couple of other points I'd like to make, first of all, we recognize that you know this land and recognize its resources and know its resources and we're hoping that you'll share that knowledge with us tonight, both the scientific and traditional knowledge and issues of concerns that you have, and affects your day to day life and the future of this community and the North Slope Borough. We also want you to know that there have been no decisions made on the outcome of this and that, about oil or gas leasing or the management of, or land use of this area, and so we want you to help us develop that and make your recommendations, and we'll depend on what you tell us to, in assembling this plan and environmental process. We appreciate all the information that we have to date, very much, and we want you to know that we appreciate you being here tonight, and your time and your talents in sharing with us. With that, after Arnold interprets that, I'm going to turn the time over to Anne Morkill, who will act as our facilitator this evening, I'm going back and shake the hand of my friend George Ahmogak and Bill Thomas so, thank you very much.

ANNE MORKILL - BLM: Thanks Arnold. Good evening, and thank you for having us in your community. As Dee mentioned, our objective here tonight is to listen to you and hear your concerns, and gather information from you about this area around Nuiqsut and the areas you use, and the planning area. Curt Wilson is gonna briefly talk about what plan it is that we're developing and what our timeline is and we'll get right into taking your comments and concerns and we'll talk about some of these maps that we have up here, as well.

CURTIS WILSON - BLM: The first thing I'd like to do is just emphasize that although there's been a lot of focus on the fact that some kind of a leasing program for oil and gas may come from this planning effort, that we're also planning for all of the resources that BLM is responsible to manage up here. So we would like to hear all of your concerns about, if you've got concerns about Native allotments, for example, or some other kind of lands issue, we'd like to hear those, anything having to do with the management of the land out there. If you've got concerns we'd like to hear those, in addition to your concerns about the leasing program. That's the first thing, and the second thing is, I'll just walk you quickly through this timeline, and tell you when we'll be back to see you again. Well, right now we're holding the scoping meetings and gathering public comments until April 18th, we extended that, we've extended that to the 18th, in was originally the 31st (*of March*) we were supposed to close it but we've had so much trouble getting in here that we had to extend it. We're going to write the EIS and it's going to be available to the public on October 24th and I'm sure that the borough will make sure, will make that readily available to you folks out here to take a look at, and then we're gonna hold public meeting in November, we've got them scheduled for November 4th through the 14th and of course, that's weather allowing. And sometime in the month of November we'll be back out here to explain what's in this document and to get feedback from you on your reaction to the various alternatives that we develop in this document. So you can plan on seeing us again some time in November. Then we have a 60 day public review, and comments will be due on the EIS on the 23rd of December, we're going to have the final EIS available June 26th, and again you'll have copies of it out here and we're gonna try to make a final record of decision and publish the final document on July 31st, 1998. So that's not very long for that, but I think the most important thing for the short term is that we'll be back out here to see you in November.

MORKILL: I just wanted to point out some of the maps that we have, over on the far wall we have a picture that shows the entire National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, that's 23 million acres, and that northeast corner is what we have blown up on most of the rest of these maps, and we have different information, this farthest one shows all the lakes and the rivers and the creeks only, with the red being the planning area outline, and back here North Slope Borough has brought some maps that show cultural and historical sites and Native allotments, and this map over here shows the

different vegetation types, these were developed using satellites and this is an interesting map because it shows the different types of vegetation and there's a key down here. And we have a blank map, we have a couple of these actually, and if we get into an opportunity where you want to draw some lines on the map, areas that you might have special concerns or areas where you don't want certain activities to take place, we welcome you to start drawing lines on the map and that will help us in the planning. I'm going to also take notes of the kind of information that you're providing and the concerns that you express, but also remember that we're tape recording, both the borough and BLM, and we'll have transcripts of your word for word statements, so we'll capture everything that you say tonight and that will help us develop this plan and try to address your concerns. Anybody from the borough want to talk about the information....

(End of tape 1 - side 1)

(Begin tape 1 - side 2)

JOE NUKAPIGAK: My name is Joe Nukapigak and I'm a resident of Nuiqsut and also President of Kuukpik Corporation, which is our village corporation and I on behalf of the Kuukpik Corporation, we have written a letter to Mr. Tom Allen, I don't know if he is here or what, no? But anyway, I'd like to read what the content of this letter is that was addressed to him on behalf of the corporation, which is dated March 26th. (*Reads Letter to Tom Allen - copy attached*)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: I've heard one or two comments on the Nuiqsut... (inaudible)... and one, the first draft, I think it has just a carbon copy, are you referring to this one?

JOE NUKAPIGAK: Yeah.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: This particular one, that'll be the first draft, the first document...

JOE NUKAPIGAK: That's the first document that was adopted in.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: That's the one you were making reference to?

MORKILL: Ray, have you seen this document? (*referring to "Nuiqsut Paisanich, A Cultural Plan"*)

TAQULIK OPIE: We're having copies printed, those are kind of hard to read, at the request of the village, we're having 100 copies printed. The printers messed up with the map, so they're back at the printers, they should be ready in less than a week.

MORKILL: Can we get copies?

TAQULIK OPIE: So you will get copies when they're done.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: You can have my carbon copy for the time being, until the new ones come.

TAQULIK OPIE: We expected to have them here, but they had to go back to the printers, the maps weren't right.

MORKILL: Joe, I wanted to ask you, we have some land status maps that does show those lands that have been conveyed, do you have a line on the map that shows the withdrawal area, the area that you are concerned about?

JOE NUKAPIGAK: Well, we have a map.....

BILL THOMAS - ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION: We can provide ... (inaudible)...

MORKILL: That would be very helpful. I'd like to.....

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: That was Bill Thomas speaking but I didn't catch the gist of what he was, what's your response?

BILL THOMAS: I said we can provide maps that will show current land ... (inaudible) ... as well as the previous ANCSA 11(a)(1) withdrawal.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: The question was directed to Joe, I guess Joe, you concur with that?

JOE NUKAPIGAK: When did you get so generous with giving maps away Tom? (laughter)

MORKILL: Anybody else like to speak at this time? If you had a chance to write this management plan, what would you like to see in it?

THOMAS NAPAGEAK - PRESIDENT OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF NUIQSUT:
(*Reads prepared written statement - copy attached*) I'll try to read off some of these in English and Eskimo for the benefit of the people of our community.

(End of tape 1 - side 2)
(Begin tape 2 - side 1)

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (*Reading prepared written statement*)

MORKILL: We were in that meeting until 12:30 a.m. at KBRW so we'll stay here as

long as you'd like us too, till our plane leaves in the morning.

LEONARD LAMPE - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: My name is Leonard Lampe, I have comments on NPR-A, the Nuiqsut people have been here for many years, we know bylaws were established in 1974, this has always been a traditional area for ...(inaudible)... the North Slope, we have physical evidence that our people have been here over eleven thousand years, in this area, the Colville River. It became part of the United States in 1952, so that's a lot to compare, eleven thousand years to when you got this land in 1952, compared to what we've been here, eleven thousand years, so that's a big comparison of who owns the land. That's what my thought is, who owns the land. I don't agree with the timeline, this community has been through many lease sales, many proposals, I've never seen a lease sale like this, pushed so hard and so fast. Like trying to put one under the table as quickly as possibly as you can. This is a big area, this is a real traditional area, and I just don't agree with the timeline and I think it should be extended, especially with all the traditional sites, ...(inaudible)... the other entities that need to gather their information, I was talking to some of these entities that they cannot keep up with the timeline that you have given us. We've heard the ...(inaudible)... of traditional grounds gathered before the 18th of this month, so that's something to take into consideration, there's no way ourselves can give you all the information of eleven thousand years of all the stories and traditions that have been passed down to us ...(inaudible)... in 8 days. It cannot be done, so I think you should lengthen the timeline. There are a lot Native allotments that are not recognized by BLM or BIA, pending, so those need to be taken into consideration as well, Native allotments that haven't been conveyed. I also agree that we should ...(inaudible)... so there's a lot of traditional sites around the area, around NPR-A, Teshekpuk area ...(inaudible)... recognized as well. There's a lot of seismic happening in the village in the past over here, they're just starting to find archeological sites where our people have lived for thousands of years, they're just finally finding those sites, there are many sites out there that are unrecognized, there are many graves out there. There are many traditional sites that are unmarked. This past year ARCO went over almost a historical grave yard. I made a big issue out of this, there are a lot of unmarked graves, a lot of unmarked areas, and as they keep on doing seismicing, they keep on damaging the land. There's no way to recognize, for archeologist to recognize that this was a traditional land, I believe more development and more exploration not only ruins the land that my children have a chance to go hunting and fishing, it also ruins the tradition, the history, with all the seismic that is happening, so like I say, I like to express there's a lot of unmarked territory out there, a lot of unmarked graves, a lot of historical places, the borough does try as much as it can, try to protect our areas but there's learning today of where our traditional sites are. ...(inaudible)... the traditional sites, the graves, the hunting areas, you need to take those into consideration, the traditional sites, the places, these are links to our past, they're records of who we are today, and who we're gonna be tomorrow. If we don't have historical places, we don't have historical markers, we don't have a past,

without the past we don't know what we're supposed to teach our children. And I believe that's going to happen if development keeps going on now. We've heard ... (inaudible) ... they had a chance in their early young days to hunt in the Kuparuk, Prudhoe Bay area, I never got a chance to hunt in that area, because that area is off limits to hunt

ers. So my children are not going to be able to hunt and fish in the Kuparuk, Prudhoe Bay area as I was, what about NPR-A? Right now I hunt and fish there, my children, are they going to have a chance to do that when there's development? Are they going to be pushed away like I was from the Kuparuk area, from the Teshekpuk area, the NPR-A area? It's going to take a lot of consideration of both the past and future. Thank you.

MORKILL: Does anyone have any ideas, we've talked about your areas along Fish Creek, and some of these historical sites, what would you suggest for how we would protect these sites? Do you have any ideas?

RUTH NUKAPIGAK: My name is Ruth Nukapigak, (speaking in Inupiat)..

(End of tape 2 - side 1)

(Begin tape 2 - side 2)

RUTH NUKAPIGAK: (speaking in Inupiat)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Thank you Ruth. That was Ruth Nukapigak, she often speaks at these meetings since her current primary concerns are, a couple of concerns since you folks deal with land, these issues, one is allotment, her husband's allotment, it's on, I think south side of Meade River. Barrow resident Kara Beeters has some property near hers, her husband's allotment that was willed to her and her kids, and someone has built a house on the allotment and she doesn't like that, nobody's told her about it, and she has document of this allotment, she has papers with a serial number on file and this was, considers it a trespass, and she don't know who to talk to about this, and would like some assistance. She'd like for BLM to address this for her, since it has to do with allotment, she also has a lot in Barrow, a similar trespass case, she has a deed on the one that's had a trespass also, she has a restricted deed. As she spoke she said, since they came to Nuiqsut here, caribou is one of her concerns, here in Nuiqsut, today, not too much caribou because of industrial impacts, she has, when there was very little industrial influence around here she enjoyed serene living, just nobody harassing them and nobody encountering any type of seismic in the village or near the village, when they first came the kids were young and now they have their own kids, now the land is in question. No matter how much they speak, she's been at public speaking before and the United States agents who are people from the United States government don't listen, that they think that it's, that they're the government, and they have the right to come in and do this and they just tell people this is what's going to happen and they come and inform them and just leave and just, and although people here claim that this is their land and the other people wants to, seem to want to claim the right to the land for their own development. And this has come, made things more worse because of the lack of caribou today, she's very concerned in that the

impacts is disrupted, displaced caribou, and also seeks that, she says there's no caribou, the people don't go seal hunting, and no ducks are here in the winter, so they don't rely on plants like other folks do down south, Anchorage or elsewhere or where people have vegetables, only in the summer can they go out, so far out in one hour from the mouth of the river out to the sea, to catch any seals in the summer. The village is not like any other coastal village because it's unique, that it's different because of its location, it's inlet and that today that the food and the meat is lacking because of the caribou have gone elsewhere, is not here, and her other thoughts are that seismics are conducted too quickly without informing the public here in Nuiqsut and they do it quickly in that they off set the renewable resources from where they're supposed to be and she's concerned along in the summer time that from Cape Hopkins to in the Harrison Bay area that there's goslings, baby goslings, ducks, geese, whatever, that these impacts may harm these renewable resources, and want to know what, if the documentation has made provisions to protect these things. That if there is no documentation that this is a potential impact is that these will diminish, vanish, because of oil and gas development, and how we will restore the caribou that is not going to be there when development comes in this impact area in the northeast district of NPR-A. And the fish, and renewable resources, aquatic and what is the mitigation, how are you going to mitigate these if you kill them off as they're near shore and things, oil spills and other issues that or seismic may kill when the arctic least cisco for example may have eggs in the summer rather than, they are not like any

other fish, that they probably have their eggs in the summer, and she's very concerned about these things for her kids and the future generations of Nuiqsut. And your timeline for this EIS, seems to be too short from what she understand that, she would like that to be extended so that a proper EIS would be done to adequately address these grave concerns that she's made. And would like to know how you can respond to these; otherwise, that she's welcomed the party to Nuiqsut, graciously and glad that you folks are here to inquire about the concerns of the Nuiqsut residents. Welcome to Nuiqsut.

MORKILL: Thank you Ruth. Some of these....

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: I'd like to add little bit onto the caribou question that she had, I just, Alaska Department of Fish and Wildlife Services and the Federal Fish and Wildlife, including the North Slope Borough Wildlife Management, are confused up to date why the Teshekpuk caribou herd has migrated all the way to the Kenai Peninsula, what is the cause for all this, I mean these got to be evaluated before any lease sale starts occurring. Are we out of caribou, or not, and for how long. These are questions that need to be answered, I understand that Taquilik indicated that there collared caribou and I think that's one of the reasons why this guy that I was talking with down in Anchorage, I can't think of his name right now, but he worked for Alaska Department of Fish and Wildlife, was telling me that some of the caribou from Teshekpuk Lake had migrated all the way to Kenai Peninsula, now caribou is the primary, of course there's a lot of species that's abundant for now, before any wells occurs, whales are valuable, but caribou has always been our primary source of subsistence, and it has got to be evaluated very carefully.

MORKILL: What are some of the problems that you've seen with caribou, say out in Kuparuk, do they not like the pipeline? Or are there some specific problems you might be able to tell us about, that we can make note of?

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Yeah, the problem is all the caribou down in Kenai. (laughter)

MORKILL: Why do you think they left? Is it warmer down there? (laughter)

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: I think what caused the caribou from diverting from the Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk area is the height of the pipeline due to the fact, the requirement, a minimum of 5 feet, and especially when there's winter months, where snow starts building up, I mean there's absolutely no way that caribou can go underneath the pipeline, I think that's what's causing some of the caribou to come towards the west, especially the part of the central herd. That's something to be considered strongly, and if there is to be development, within the NPR-A, there's a lot of ... (inaudible)... that needs to be looked into and identified.

MORKILL: Do you think the pipeline might need to be higher or bury the pipeline?

UNKNOWN: That's something that needs to be looked into.

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: Well the recommendation from the community for outside development was either bury a good portion of the pipeline or elevate it high enough, I mean 5 feet is not adequate in the winter time. There's no way that you can cross, even with a snow machine, you have to follow the pipeline in order to get to an area where you can finally cross it, it may take you an additional 10 miles of the quickest route that you might be able to come home on, but because of the height of the pipeline and the snow drifts, that makes it that much harder, and I do think that the caribou have that same problem as like we do.

MORKILL: So it's a barrier to the people too.

LEONARD LAMPE: One solution that the government and ARCO tried to bring, was to have caribou crossings, and I don't think that's gonna work, I don't think the caribou knows where you're building the crossings, so I told them against having caribou crossings in certain areas because it should all be accessible instead of certain parts. I believe because of the increase as well on the Dalton Highway, the increase of traffic in the Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk area, also the near shore development of North Star, all the activity happening at North Star area as well as Endicott, I feel cause of all the traffic between Fairbanks and Endicott, much more increased traffic that caribou are hesitant to cross the main roads because of all the traffic, I feel that has something to do with the caribou migration as well, because of increased traffic as well as air, not just ground, as well as air, seismic operations happening all over. I feel like when you, either it's dynamite blasts or it's the vibrating that goes into the tundra that might have some kind of effect on the food chain of the caribou, I feel that seismic also has something to do with it, with the caribou leaving this area.

MORKILL: When you talk about caribou crossings, are those ramps over the pipeline?

LEONARD LAMPE: No, it's actually where the pipeline elevates up higher and then goes back to normal, they call that the caribou crossing, the oil companies do, I told them that maybe they should put big neon lights up there so the caribou could know where to cross. (laughter)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: John's suggestion is to, when you do that crossing,

through the pipeline, that you make, when you make it high, is to make the roads similar, so that the caribou is not fearful of being run over for example, but he would walk under the road. Like you should have an overpass or something.

DALE STOTTS - KUUKPIK CORPORATION: One of the problems might also be that the State of Alaska has a vested interest in the state leases and the development there in, oil companies approached cannot do it as cost effectively as they can for their own profits, the state also manages the resources, which is essential for federal leases occurring in the near future. My question is, under what management scheme, and the state is so divided at this point that come October could be that the federal government steps in and takes over management over resources. We're all very much aware of the fight that's going on with the state, so I would strongly suggest that there's a consideration or establish a federally charged subsistence policy commission for this whole North Slope area, the totally affected area. So that there's an organization that has some teeth to it that can properly guide and manage the resources and avoid the type of conflicts that the people here are documenting at this planning. There are many examples that have been given tonight and I guess one of my questions is how does the federal government, have they even contemplated how that they would address that particular issue.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: You're making reference like drafting and entering or drafting co-management agreement of renewable resources?

STOTTS: Something along those lines, but I did say, consideration for a federally charged...

(End of tape 2 - side 2)
(Begin tape 3 - side 1)

DALE STOTTS: ...and lifestyle...

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: What I was referring to is like, we have a co-management agreement, where as land would comprised of only Natives and the Natives, we ourselves would manage all of the renewable resources in the arctic, including, NPR-A inclusive. But I guess we can get into that particular one, I saw the comments and then it's similar to the comments that I saw, can you answer some questions like that?

MORKILL: Dave, do you want talk a little bit about the wildlife, the fish or the

DAVE YOKEL - BLM: I'm not sure what the question exactly what the question was. My name is Dave Yokel, I'm a wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Land Management, as to the question, as I interpreted it here about the subsistence commission, all I can say about that is that currently as you all well know, there's a

Federal Subsistence Board that regulates subsistence harvest from federal lands in Alaska. And there are 10 regional advisory councils, made up of rural residents that advise that Federal Subsistence Board, and to the best of my knowledge that is about the extent of what we can do under current law, as far as going towards meeting what you're addressing. If that didn't answer your question well enough, rephrase it and I'll try again.

SLOTTS: You stated what exists at this particular time, I'm suggesting that perhaps it should be extended to reflect more local control, and I think that's what to a large degree, folks would like to see take place. One management regime, it's co-management if you will if you were to regionalize it time define. But you have at this particular, I'll give you an example, you're talking about caribou, the state introduced muskox up here, caribou and muskox cannot get along. In this particular area it's been demonstrated that muskox literally drive the caribou away. The state has a no growth policy on muskox, well, it's a no growth policy, but that doesn't alleviate the fact or mediate the fact that caribou are being displaced. The consumer, the local people, the subsistence hunter has to deal with multi-levels of management, the resources have obviously been ...(inaudible)... we're trying to get a policy making body which is more locally, comprised of more local participants.

YOKEL: I hear what your saying and I understand that you're suggesting something different from what is currently in place but my answer is still to the best of my knowledge, we as agencies that are here to implement the laws that Congress passes, currently cannot, under those laws, cannot go to the extent you're suggesting. Did you want to add something to that Dee?

RITCHIE: Yeah, let me venture out on to this limb a minute. I think that we've heard several of the, by the way my name's Dee Ritchie and I work for the BLM and the people of the United States, including Nuiqsut, we've heard several of these meetings a similar kind of suggestion and I think what we need to do is consider what that might be. There's several ways to do that I think, one is just been recently opened up to us, at least within the last year is what the Secretary of the Interior calls the Resource Advisory Board. Which advises, not only on subsistence, but on all resources, and that's what we're going to be dealing with here, all the resources, and I think that might be a way to go, where those folks are locally chosen and appointed and approved by the Secretary, and have quite a broad range of power, I think that would be a good way to go. I think we need to sit down, maybe it would get to that point and advise something. I've heard, Thomas talked about some of that and Joe in their comments, maybe something like the whaling commission ought to be devised with some of those kinds of opportunities to all sit down and manage these lands. I think there's a way, I just don't exactly what it ought to be yet, but I think we've heard the suggestion that something ought to be done that way.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: I'm going to pose a question Dee, since we're not no longer talking with the state and this is directly with the federal government, if we all unanimously desire to have a co-management program of our renewable resources, you would be inclined to honor a request to get this formulated, similar to that of AWC?

RITCHIE: I didn't hear all of that, what, were you talking about co-management? That was your question? I think we have to again, I think we have to venture out on that limb carefully, we don't have the authority to stand here, and that probably exists, but higher and my level, that to enter into a co-management kind of an operation, of course I don't know what we mean when we say co-management, if you mean manage that land, I can't...

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: I guess maybe I'm using the wrong term, I would like to make it more direct, that we manage these affairs, our own affairs ourselves, and renewable resources, since we do an excellent job with the bowhead whale.

RITCHIE: I can't answer your question, except to say that the management of these lands has to be done with the people that live here.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: I hear this from several testimonies and from the text of the Nuiqsut Paisanich, and that's why I'm trying to see if I can get a more direct answer.

RITCHIE: I wish I could give you one, if I could say yes.....

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: If you just say yes, then we'll take your word. (laughter)

RITCHIE: I know you would.

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: *(Reads prepared written statement - copy attached)*

ROSEMARY ATTUAGARUAK - NUIQSUT CITY COUNCIL: Good evening, I'm a resident of Nuiqsut and I'm also on the city council. *(Reads prepared written statement - copy attached)*

(End of tape 3 - side 1)

(Begin tape 3 - side 2)

MORKILL: Rosemary, both you and the gentleman before you talked about the public meetings and the intense subsistence activity, is that in the fall, when you're whaling, is that right, or this whole period?

ROSEMARY ATTUAGUARUAK: From ...(inaudible)... season on through the fall.

MORKILL: One thing we'd like to address, we're having our public meetings in November, and the document will be available in late October, is that a bad time for being out, subsistence hunting?

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: I think if you focus a question, I am the Chairman of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, if you really want to know the season for our subsistence whaling, I've got all the answers. We start our subsistence hunting the first week of September, the season last as long as there's a quota of bowhead whales. The hunt may last for 3 weeks to a month. Of course if we're lucky we can get out of the ocean with a bag limit of 4 in 2 weeks time. Does that answer your questions?

MORKILL: Yes it does, thank you very much.

KAREN BURNELL - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: They also go fall fishing to their cabins or their camps, in October, so that's something else that you might want to know.

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: If possible, I'd like to make a comment, one more comment. I'll try to make it short, it's one comment. I think Arnold can translate to the other people what I'm about to say in my own language, to make you understand exactly what I've been talking about. We've got Bill Thomas he's been the Land Chief, Land Analyst for Arctic Slope Regional Corporation for a good number of years, maybe 20 years or so, and I'm pretty sure that you can support what I'm going to say, that ANILCA saves any development within a 75 mile radius of the village, the village is impacted, isn't that correct.

BILL THOMAS: It doesn't say that but it infers that there's an impact, it has an effect on....

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Well I know, I know you're hesitant to say otherwise, but according to ANILCA, (speaks in Inupiat)..... What does the group think about impact funds. Will they be made available. That's a question I'd like to ask the Bureau of Land Management or whom ever is....

CONVERSATION IN INUPIAT: Discussing Impact Funds.

RUTH NUKAPIGAK: (translated here by Arnold Brower, Jr) She's concerned about her existing allotment up by Itkilik, that every year, seismic tracks her allotment, and she doesn't consent to it and nobody's asked her, and how can she find out who these people are and that she would prefer to be asked and compensated for tracking and using her allotment.

MORKILL: The seismic crews are actually.....

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Annually. This winter she's already recognized there's tracks, seismic tracks already. In 1974 an incident happened 6 times that winter and they were able to track these people down and find out they were the united group and they've been trying to get compensated, and they have not heard or received any compensation. I don't know who has been issuing those permits for seismic and I think that they, whoever drafts these might address her personally.

KAREN BURNELL: *(speaks to Ruth in Inupiat about NSB's permitting, monitoring and compensation process)*

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: I have a question I'd like to ask you, I know a couple years, maybe a year back, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation submitted a land exchange with BLM, what's the stand on that now? Has that been resolved? From the Alaska Park to the NPR-A?

MORKILL: The person who should address that is out in the hallway, I can hear his voice.

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: Is that dead, or is there something going on with the land exchange.

MORKILL: I'm going to let Dee Ritchie answer that because I don't really answer...Dee, sorry to pull you out, we had a question from Isaac on the status of the land exchange proposal...

(End of tape 3 - side 2)

(Begin tape 4 - side 1)

RITCHIE:we'll probably address that in this overall study, some kind of an exchange, perhaps, but an exchange has to at least in the present rules, O.K., has to be of benefit to the United States Government, and it has to have a real good purpose behind it.

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: Congress would have to act on it?

RITCHIE: Congress could act on it.

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: The Department of the Interior, Secretary?

RITCHIE: The Secretary could act on it.

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: Without going to the Congress?

RITCHIE: The laws of government, the Petroleum Reserve, said that Congress reserved a lot of things to themselves on this, so we don't know just how that would be done. But apparently it can be done, because it's been done, in a little piece.

MORKILL: Is there a specific concern you'd like me to write down regarding, about the land exchange?

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: I was just kind of wondering, if I remembered right, a couple of years ago the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation had proposed a land exchange from the Gates of the Arctic to the NPR-A.

RITCHIE: Let me just tell you, we objected to that quite strongly, honestly because we didn't see anything in it for the United States Government, I mean Gates of the Arctic was going to get the piece of land in the exchange and BLM who'd managed these lands for along time didn't see any value in that for the people of the United States. It's not good business for us...

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: But what about the ...(inaudible)...

RITCHIE: What about the what?

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: There's so much wealth in this area in the Gate where there's a lot of tourism and bird watchers and all of that stuff.

RITCHIE: You show me how many dollars are left in the state by tourism, left in the state now, that's something though that we really need to look honestly, need to....

MORKILL: That actually brings up something I was wondering, I might throw out to the group, some of the other issues that we're looking at in this northeast planning unit is recreation. And I know the Colville River in particular is, a lot of people point that out as a river that they like to float in the summer time. Do you have any concerns about the recreation that you see in this area?

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: Yeah, we see a lot of drifters, every year, it seems to be getting heavier as each years, a lot of drifters are coming down the Colville, I'm kinda wondering if that's going to have any effect on the subsistence, or it may be an opportunity for opening up the economic benefit to the community, like the possibility of maybe opening a guiding service, or something.

MORKILL: So there might be conflicts, but there also might be benefits.

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: There' a possibility of economic benefit, yes. There's just so many of these, birdwatchers, wildlife, they like to see what wildlife ...(inaudible)...

economic benefit to the community.

MORKILL: Take them out in a boat to different areas to see birds..... How might they conflict with subsistence users, do they come into your camps or disturb....

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: There's potential that this, you see a lot of them passing by, a lot of drifters, I don't see them interfering with our subsistence. In fact ... (inaudible)... in the Colville. But it's getting heavier though, on creating impact by coming down the Colville.

MORKILL: I'm going to try to capture some of this, I don't know, Arnold wants to translate in a minute. How's everyone feeling? We need to go a few more hours?

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: I've got a question I'd like to ask, who is the guy with the green shirt, plaid green shirt?

SHARON WILSON: Ray Emerson.

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: I understand your from MMS.

RAY EMERSON: Minerals Management Service, yes.

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Minerals Management? Well every since I've known MMS they've always done the ocean work. And is BLM also a federal entity right?

EMERSON: Yes.

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: And you're a federal entity?

EMERSON: Yes.

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Would it be appropriate if we, if BLM could get an independent party to put the EIS together, I think there's conflict of interest here. Both federal entities.

EMERSON: That would be O.K. with me. (laughter)

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: I'm pretty sure we have, Langston do we have a company that could put the EIS together?

LANGSTON CHINN: I'm sure we can find one Tom.

RITCHIE: I'm sure if Nuiqsut did it, or ASRC or the North Slope Borough, there

wouldn't be any conflict of interest either, is that right. (laughter) Thomas, just to help ease your concern there a little bit, we've really invited the North Slope Borough to be, to sit down to table and help write this.

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: O.K.

RITCHIE: They've got to be an intricate part of this and others who would like to come to the table.

CONVERSATION IN INUPIAT

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: What we're discussing is that Anne Morkill should have wore a different color shirt ... (laughter)... no, we're just discussing why we're the cooperating agency and the rationale between the participating agencies and co-operating agencies.

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: Another question that I noticed, that the Borough Fish and Wildlife Department and the State Fish and Game, won't have adequate time to analyze their data on the wildlife habitats and other species. Has BLM ever considered a possibility, you know, each year these studies have been done, like 3 or 4 years, 3 to 5 year studies have been done. The ... (inaudible)... that should take place is, has the BLM ever considered the possibility of hiring or contracting a research biologist to evaluate some of the areas that may be effects, the different species, the waterfowl, the nesting area, the calving area for the caribou.

YOKEL: I guess I'd have to say that that's my job, as a wildlife biologist for the BLM working in this area.

ISAAC NUKAPIGAK: How much studies have BLM done?

YOKEL: Well the BLM has participated with the last Department of Fish and Game and the Borough Department of Wildlife, in the studies on the Teshekpuk caribou herd, at least the last 17 years. We have also been involved in the studies of the moose and the raptors along the Colville River, and we are, we initiated and paid for the study of land cover that you see depicted in that map there, which tells us about the habitat in the area and we will

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: Has the BLM ever studied any waterfowl species in the Teshekpuk area? Cause that's really heavy brant and geese nesting area, and different species of waterfowl.

YOKEL: There are annual waterfowl surveys that are done by the Fish and Wildlife Service. These were probably first done back in the 1980's.

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: I know that the Fish and Wildlife the Federal Fish and Wildlife been maybe concentrating on the Colville site. The, east of the proposed NPR-A area.

YOKEL: The waterfowl surveys that I'm referring to are done across the arctic coastal plane of the North Slope, both of which are in NPR-A west of the Colville River, in addition to that we did a five year study of the black brant, north of Teshekpuk Lake in the late '80's early '90's. We are working in this area, other agencies are as well and we're trying to cooperate as much as we can to use our financial resources as best as we can.

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: The reason I asked that, cause I think this thing is pushing too fast for this community. Especially being impacted heavily again, cause we've been very impacted in the past, like I indicated earlier, from these previous lease sales that's been leased by the state, and the federal government either inland or out in Beaufort Sea.

YOKEL: Well I can't address the speed of this effort any more than Dee already has. All I can say is given, any amount of time that we are given to do this, we are going to do the best we can to analyze all the data that we have, and of course there's an ongoing effort to continue studies.

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: Cause on that ...(inaudible)... we have identified some borough area but I mean there are some were ignored on some of these or where the activity area we discussed it with the borough.

YOKEL: One of the things that we would like to hear from you tonight is that if there is an area in this portion of this planning area that you think should be deferred from and action because of studies that are needed, then we would like to know what that area is and what those studies are that you feel need to be completed prior to any action.

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: Yeah, cause the way, the looks of the schedule, I mean like what Taqulik indicated that there's absolutely no way, they won't be able to analyze all that data that they had collected, even before the final draft of the EIS.

MORKILL: Are there some areas that you or anyone knows then now that you would like to recommend be deferred from leasing, because of that issue of not having enough information? I mean, as Dave said, that's the kind of thing, why we even brought a map, is to get ideas from the community. We mentioned the withdrawal area of the Kuukpik Corporation as a place you'd like to see leasing deferred. Are there any other places that, I mean we'd welcome some lines on the map.

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: The Teshekpuk area is the one that's heavy, with it's heavy species of, the nesting areas, species of waterfowl and the caribou calving grounds, that should be considered to be protected. I don't know how...(inaudible)... about it.

MORKILL: Any body else want to comment? Any response to that? You recommending deferring leasing from the areas that, where there's waterfowl nesting and caribou calving on Teshekpuk.

TAQULIK OPIE: I'd like to say, because we have such a short time to write these reports and to analyze them, does that mean that the draft EIS is going to be a poor document and not fully addressing all the issues that these people want to be addressed in this EIS?

YOKEL: I think that the, that we will attempt to address all of these issues in the draft, whether or not it will be a poor document, that's subjective opinions that may differ among people and I won't attempt to provide my opinion at this point in time cause the document doesn't exist. We will do our best to use all of the information that we can when we put together that document.

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: I see that's the process that's too fast. Especially with so many issues that needs to be analyzed and addressed, I definitely hate to see that after the final draft of the EIS and have to come back to the community and say, I'm sorry we messed up, but that's what happened. Who's going to be blamed and who's going to fully impacted. I mean these are some of the issues that needs to be considered strongly.

RAY EMERSON: That's a very good comment, the only thing I could offer is that there's over, well it will be almost June of '88, next year, over a years time which there will be additional input into this process, if the schedule stays the same, which there will be input into this final document.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: '98

EMERSON: '98, what'd I say?

MORKILL: '88.

YOKEL: Good we're done. (laughter)

MORKILL: Maybe that's 2088.

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: I agree with Isaac when he says that BLM is moving a bit

too fast. For instance, here's an article that says, BLM seeks information and comments on issues relating for future land use planning and management of northeast corner of NPR-A. The bureau request information or comment on resources, such as wildlife and subsistence resources and that's going to take time, we all realize that. As well as current and potential future activities on leased lands. Including possible development of areas of oil and gas potential. For example the agencies interested to learn of what areas are of particular value for various species and uses. These are going to take time, I mean, it's agreeable that we're moving too fast. I mean you guys are, I'm pretty sure BLM and MMS doesn't care, if they have a lease sale, they're gone. These people here were born here, raise here and gonna die and their grand kids are going to do the same thing. Generation after generation, they're gonna live on this area. That's why we're saying this movement is going too fast. There's hardly any consideration of what's going to happen tomorrow, practically. And what measures should be considered to protect resources and uses from potentially impacting activities. Here's another good one here, oil and gas companies are specifically requested to nominate within the plan area, areas that they would like to have considered for oil and gas leasing. I mean are the oil companies more worthy of this land than Inupiat? George, I need your help. (laughter)

RITCHIE: Thomas, let me try, I'm not George, but let me try and explain the nomination process for oil and gas tracts.

SHARON WILSON: Dee stand up, just stand up.

RITCHIE: The reason that calls for a nominations for oil and gas tracts is because until somebody makes a nomination out there, we don't know where those tracts might even be located. You're invited to do the same thing, the really important areas...

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: A basic fact, if we say this is valuable for our subsistence and then oil companies say this a potential area, who's got the more authority, me or the oil companies? Who are you going to go with? The oil companies have got, they've got the money.

RITCHIE: No, I don't think that's a part of the question right now. Let me tell you this, up front, if this community doesn't want any development out there, that's your decision, there won't be any development out there, O.K.? But that's not what I heard tonight, I thought you wanted to have development, but it ought to be very carefully done, and it ought to be understood, what happens. I'll tell you about the time frame, one more time. We're going to bring the Secretary of the Interior out here in July...

UNKNOWN: and he's going to start walking every square inch (laughter)

RITCHIE: That's what he said, we can go back and say don't even tell him that because he couldn't walk around the big lake in oh, six months, but we want you to ask him that question on time, because we want, if we err here, we'd like to err on the side of doing the best job that's possible. You need to be there Thomas. We'll make an appointment for you folks in July with the Secretary.

ELIZABETH KOUTCHAK: I'd like to say something, you have down here in these figures that the percentage of households in Nuiqsut which has engaged in subsistence harvest, instances that resulted in sharing by Nuiqsut hunters, percentage of harvest and edible pounds by category by Nuiqsut hunters, you've got a map here, you've got a recorded subsistence harvest, one not including fish and so on and so on, but I don't see anything on paper in which all the species are listed and where have they increased and decreased over the years up until present day, and where is it going to in the future months, if this goes through? Where is the increase and decrease in all of the species that are connected together in the cycle of life.

TAQULIK OPIE: That report was written by the North Slope Department of Wildlife Management and that was our first year that we collected data and we're hoping to continue this project to over time we'd be able to have those numbers and to compare to the numbers so, you know, we have two years worth of data collected for Nuiqsut now and we just hired Leonard Tugle here and I think over time we'll be able to compare those numbers as you requested or as you're asking.

MORKILL: Part of the environmental impact statement will be accessing the consequences of different activities, one might be oil and gas leasing, another might be some other kind of land action, and that will include looking at what is there now, what the wildlife populations are, what their trends have been over time and what those development activities might do to those populations in the future, so we intend to address that in the Environmental Impact Statement. I also wanted to mention Secretary Babbitt being here. Every week, or at least every other week there's a group of people from Washington D.C. that are briefed and we let them know that the most common issue that comes up at all our meetings, this is our fifth, is that we're going too fast and the time frame's too short, so if they're not hearing it from us, say it loud and clear again this summer because we've been telling them that that's the main thing we've been hearing, in addition to all the other issues that have been brought up. That's a very common issue everywhere we go.

UNKNOWN: And Knowles.

MORKILL: And Knowles and at least get him out here....

UNKNOWN: And get him off the hook. (laughter)

(End of tape 4 - side 1)

(Begin tape 4 - side 2)

TAQULIK OPIE: It's at the printer, we had it printed but they put an I after the U right before the S. So we had to send it back to get the binding corrected, but it's complete and it's being printed this week. So we'll send a copy to each house hold, so you'll get to have your own copy (*again referring to "Nuiqsut Paisanich, A Cultural Plan"*).

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: I've got another good question, I think keeps popping up, this is Isaac here again, as you all know we've had pollution that's been identified and that needs to be cleaned up, in part of the NPR-A. There's a rare potential pollution contaminating material that were buried by the Air Force, that's needs to be considered looking at too, the possibility of cleaning the whole Colville, cause of that possible of effecting all of our species, there's been some areas, you probably heard a couple, last year, they had found pretty close to over 30 moose carcasses that were unknown causes of death. And I'm kind of wondering if it's coming from that contaminated site. And these are some of the issues that need to be clarified before the proposed NPR-A lease.

MORKILL: That was in Umiat?

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: Yes, cause I know once if we'd got some material information about the Umiat contaminated, so much material that'd been buried during the time that the United States Air Force used that as their, one of their stations.

MORKILL: The concerns about contamination getting in the river?

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: Cause of the fast motion of the Colville, that's getting close to where the contaminated buried sites, cause each year, the erosion on the Colville seems to be faster every year. I travel a lot on the Colville during the summer months, especially when the moose season's opened up and we noticed that the erosion, every year it's faster.

KAREN BURNELL: What you are saying is that you'd like to see the Colville River deferred because the same thing could happen that's happening in Umiat, right?

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: Right.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR: No river drilling.

RITCHIE: I think I heard Isaac a little bit, there's several spots around that need to be cleaned up, that's a good example of one, there's several others, and I think that

might be something that ought to be listed in there and we need to work with the other agencies that are, made that happen and get it ...(inaudible)... we know of a couple of other sites and so that's really a good comment, I for one appreciate it.

ISSAC NUKAPIGAK: I appreciate that but the only site within the NPR-A the potential contaminated site, that needs to be look into and cleaned up.

RITCHIE: We've been working really hard on the old DEW Line sites that are also, some in that area, while George ...(inaudible)... get support from the Department of Defense to the exactly what you're talking about.

MORKILL: If we stay a few more hours, you keep coming up with all these good ideas to write down.

JIM ALLEN: My name is Jim Allen, earlier with the pipeline days, now around Prudhoe Bay and it wasn't that long ago I guess, maybe five or six years ago now, I was working on of the oil wells, the companies were hauling out the drilling mud that they used to drill wells and they hauled out to Howe Island where the ocean would, we were supposed to be hauling the drilling mud and I knew that it's probably mixed with all different kinds of chemicals and I wondered if there was anything might of, you know, affect some of the plankton, whatever the whales are feeding on. I don't know how far that deliverment would be traveling but it was supposed to be way out I guess.

SHARON WILSON: What island was that, did you say?

JIM ALLEN: You know the drilling mud they used to drill and I remember that day I had to haul it out to the ocean where I guess they figured it would probably drift out. I was curious if there was any sign of how it would impact some of the plankton, or whatever the whales are feeding on this was down by Endicott and that was about five years ago by Howe Island. I asked that lady that came in the other day and she said that now they're putting that drill mud into back into the drill holes that they drill.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR: It was near Howe Island, it's not to far from the BP Endicott project.

LEONARD LAMPE: I'd like to say to that that was a past concern of ours too, along with the declining number of moose in this area, we always thought it was from drilling muds or other kind of chemicals that were abandoned in the sites. I don't know if anybody brought this up but I have a concern on air quality too, we've had concerns on the Alpine and we didn't know how much of a concern it was until Alpine came out of what air quality, that's going to be a major concern for the village, we've seen some gathering stations in Prudhoe where they pollute quite a bit, especially during the winter where it's real visible, so that's going to be another

real concern of the village is air quality. We have quite a few numbers of children with asthma and bronchitis cases and we still haven't figured out exactly where's that coming from and how's that affecting the village, it's not only children, it's adults as well with bronchitis and asthma that didn't occur, these disease until later in their lives and that now occurring in Nuiqsut, most of these cases, so air quality is a big concern of mine.

ARCHIE AHKVIKANA: There's two locations where we buried some old barrels, oils and whatnot there on the Chandler River, there's one close to the mouth and one upper, that was way back about 10, 15 years ago.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Who we're you working for?

ARCHIE AHKVIKANA: I don't want to tell. (laughter)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: He was working for a company that did this.

MORKILL: They were buried there?

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Some waste and stuff in barrels that I guess they just buried them by the river. By the Chandler River, by the mouth of the river and upper Chandler.

ARCHIE AHKVIKANA: They were close by the river too, at Kuparuk, we did it in the winter time, where we had to, had like.....

MORKILL: Lots of those old barrels, I've done a lot of flying on the Seward Peninsula and sometimes you think, oh there's a bear, no it's a barrel, oh there's a bear, no it's a barrel, old rusted barrels everywhere.

TAQULIK OPIE: 12:15 a.m.

UNKNOWN: Set a new record, huh?

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Well we got 20 more minutes, let's be record breakers. (laughter)

SHARON WILSON: In Atqasuk we did like what you said before, we had a plane waiting for us, that's not good. (laughter)

RITCHIE: I'd like to take a minute before you quit, was everybody gonna quit Arnold?

MORKILL: No, we're going to set a record.

RITCHIE: O.K., before you set the record, just let me say that from our stand point, my stand point, it's delightful to be here, we really enjoy these meetings, even if you do roast us a little bit about things, a lot of this we don't have a great amount of control, as I was telling George, that some of the things are passed down to us and we try and do the very best we can. I do want you to know that we have a fond respect for this people and for this land. I got into this business because I love the land, I love the animals and we take a great amount of concern there in management, this agency is one of the few agencies in the United States that cares about multiple use of the resources and the land. And I want you to know that, and I want you to know my commitment to you, our commitment to you, to do the very best that we can and we can't do that without your help, all of you, and you have valid concerns, we, someone said you'll go home and you don't care, I think I heard you say that Thomas, we do care, just saying that doesn't make it so, but I think you'll see that as we get into this, whatever comes out of it, it'll be your document and it's not going to be just ours, it has to be your document, you have to have buy in here or this thing just won't work for anyone, so we're not here to fight, and you know we're lovers not fighters, and so we want you to know that, and we really do want you to know that we do hear you. I think Maryanne said, I don't know if that was her name or not, she scolded us just a little bit about, you've made the record tonight and that's all we care about, that's not true and I'd like you to know that, that the record is the least important of this meeting tonight, it's what you've said. And thank you.

UNKNOWN: Do you know, I've got a question again, on the process of these, preparing the EIS and I don't mean, Dave saying it wasn't going too fast, I would like to know if this concerns going to go to the upper, to your upper superiors for consideration of moving to fast on this?

MORKILL: Well I can tell you one thing, yes it will, and as a matter of fact we were directed before it's closing time in Washington D.C. tomorrow, that we're supposed to call them with Nuiqsut's major concerns, so tomorrow morning that's one, definitely one concern we're going to call to Anchorage and they're going to call that back to Washington D.C., and next week some of those people are going to be in Anchorage at that symposium and they'll be briefed on what the issues are to date, for the scopes so, none of us are directly talking to Mr. Babbitt, but those people that we talked to in Washington D.C. do, and this is one of his important projects and we'll get the word back.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: For those of you that have the Internet and computer, you can go right into the NPR-A to the Internet for comment and get the latest information on the process.

MORKILL: We're going to be, our next newsletter is going to focus on the issues that have been brought up at all the different meetings and we'd like that to be feedback, for you to look at that and make sure that we address them properly and if

anything's missing to let us know, and get back to us.

SHARON WILSON: There is an interactive page that you can type your comments and names and addresses if you want to be on the mailing list, and we'll be taking the names that you sign in tonight and you'll be on the mailing list, so you'll automatically receive the newsletter.

UNKNOWN: So each time that the process goes through, there's always more information being put on the Internet?

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Even in this, can you go on line with this, there's a provision in there where you can write additional comments directly to there and just E-mail it right to the...(inaudible). There's an application in there that you can just hook on line. And if you think that I'm not going to transfer it, write it into your computer and send it to Anne or Sharon or to Dee.

UNKNOWN: Just send it attention to any of you?

MORKILL: Yeah, it'll get to us eventually, we're tracking that page, that home page. It goes to both Anchorage and Fairbanks, so we're both tracking it. Elizabeth, I think you had your hand up earlier?

ELIZABETH KOUTCHAK: I've got something to say that from experience and elders. I was born and raised in Anchorage, and I've done hunting all the way from Cantwell to Seward to Homer Spit, Valdez area and whatnot. I was hunting one summer when I was a teenager and with a couple of Athabascan elders that took me moose hunting, and he was showing me the ways, what they eat, direction and whatnot and when we got out of our vehicles and carried our hunting gear and whatnot, we went off the highway, this is Talkeetna area, we went hiking off of the highway, we went a mile, he said we got to go further, O.K., so we went further, there was at least four, five, six of us that we're hunting together in this ...(inaudible)... we went another mile, and as we were walking along he was saying, I asked him, well why do we have to go so far, and he said well, for one reason there's a state hunting law that says we have to hunt a minimum 3 miles from the highway, O.K., I can accept that, so we went further and he was saying that also not only that, but the moose can hear you, the moose hear humans going through their territory, their domain, their migration area, and he said, as long as the moose can hear you and see you, you spook them, they're going to go away and they may not come back. Another thing is my dad was telling me, when I was visiting him last month, he said down in the Palmer Flats area back in the '60s he used to see over 200 moose in one area, last summer I was driving home from here and as I was driving by during the fall time I could barely count over 25 moose at that time. There were so many moose then. Well I saw a video documentation of caribou, from Porcupine River they travel, through the interior of Alaska, they may bypass

Anaktuvuk Pass, go up to Kaktovik area and through the coastal plain and back to Porcupine River, now this is a video documentation from the '70s, we don't have anything updating where they're migrating and their routes are and why are they going this, you know, whatever direction they're going every year, and the explanation why. My point is, what I'm trying to say is that, the reason why I'm concerned about this, is I'm concerned about the noise impact the animals have. This is a flat area of land up here in part of Alaska, down there the moose, when that Athabascan elder was telling me that the moose can hear us, and we're hunting amidst pine trees, birch trees, and willows, well if the caribou can hear and see all of us on this flat land, and you can see many miles, over 30 miles plus on a good day, what makes you think once this development goes through that these, the caribou and all the species won't get spooked and driven away by noise.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR: Good morning. (laughter)

(End of tape 4 - side 2)

(Begin tape 5 - side 1)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: (translating for Ruth Nukapigak) These are not issues that are inside the NPR-A but they're Native allotment that are out further east and they're concerned about difference of fees, overland fees on their private allotments, I guess ARCO has a nominal fee of \$1000 for going over and she's telling me that's not enough, she didn't let them go through.

MORKILL: That's talking about the compensation she mentioned earlier.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Yeah.

MISCELLANEOUS CONVERSATION

MORKILL: Well you broke the record. (laughter) Thank you very much.

(End of meeting)

(copies of written testimony that were read during the meeting are attached)

Issac

Nukapigak

Good Evening

For the record, my name is _____

I would like to welcome each and every one of you to our community. This hearing gives the people of Nuiqsut, our community leaders and our elders an opportunity to speak to you directly. It also gives you an opportunity to hear our concerns regarding the federal government's proposed NPR-A lease sale. I speak to you today as both a community leader and as a subsistence user of much of the lands in the area which you are studying for proposed future oil and gas leases.

The community of Nuiqsut has already been heavily impacted by past oil and gas lease sales. Our people, the Kuukpikmuit, historically used the lands now occupied by Kuparuk and Prudhoe Bay fields for subsistence. Those lands are now closed to us. The recent OCS oil and gas lease sale from point Barrow to the Canadian border is another example. The Alpine development is proposed only eight miles away from Nuiqsut. Oil companies have also announced discoveries at Fiord, Kalubik, and Tarn.

Oil and gas development impacts the Kuukpikmuit by restricting subsistence use in our homelands. A major oil spill, however, poses even greater threats. The oil industry still does not have adequate technology for oil spill clean up in the Arctic, particularly in rivers, lakes, and the Beauford Sea. Adequate spill response must be part of any development.

Protecting local subsistence lands and resources has to be critical part of any development plan. The government should use the local knowledge of those who have been hunting, fishing, and using these lands for hundreds of years. The many lifetimes that we and our ancestors have lived on these lands give us knowledge that no scientists have. We should be consulted and informed regularly along those lines.

The government and oil companies come in to make a presentation starting in the evening, start to take public comments then leave before everyone who want to speak gets to speak. One evening is not enough for issues that will have such large impacts on Nuiqsut and our lives. The government and the oil companies should also get the information to the community sooner. Too often the community hears all of the important information for the first time in the public meeting, then is expected to react instantly, in the public meeting. The plans and the information should be made available to Kuukpik Corp, City of Nuiqsut and Native Village of Nuiqsut long enough in advance of the public meeting

for the people of this community to review the information before the meeting.
In Kuparuk and Prudhoe Bay, the oil companies have kept our people from subsistence use of these lands. In the federal lease sale, hunting should be allowed everywhere except for specific buffer zones. Hunting should be allowed everywhere except within a thousand feet of buildings and the pipelines. There should be no buffers zone around roads, except when there are traffics on the roads.

There needs to be community impact funds given to the community of Nuiqsut directly. The community should also share in the benefits of the development through a gas pipeline and local hire.

The wildlife habitat, feeding and nesting grounds, caribou calving grounds, fish spawning areas and other sensitive areas need close protection. The government only visits the land. Kuukpikmuit live here and will continue living here to even when the oil runs out. A subsistence oversight panel made up of local residents should be required as a part of any leasing programs. The oil companies who want to develop our homelands should provide money to run this panel.

Thank you for listening to the concerns of our respected community leaders and from the community itself.

Sincerely

It is very apparent the meetings
are ~~normality~~ ^{are a formality} because the plans for development
has occurred behind close walls and what
we have ^{to say} will be documented but not
~~effectively~~ integrated. We are being
pushed and pulled in all directions
at the same time with all the various agencies
^{which} effecting our ability to thoroughly
evaluate ^{& document} all issues. We have
repeatedly discussed the importance
of subsistence yet you set your deadlines
during our most busy season.

You have said you want to include
our participation yet ^{this is an example} our statements
are being unheard. We need to live
as our ancestors have shown us. We
have this to pass on to our families for their
survival. You will document your visit
to meet the requirement ^{you} for approval ^{for development}.

NPK-A has set aside and should
be left alone. It has given the
sustenance for countless animals
that migrate throughout the world. They
come back to us every year unless the
development prevents it.

Rosemary
Attaganuk

My Lunch consisted of

Caribou
Whitish
Whale
Bearded Seal

These were provided from this
land to be developed. I can survive
^{to feed my family & I}
without a job by the giving of
these animals, ~~for our~~ We need to
continue our traditional lifestyle to
survive in this land. A couple years ago
was different. The oil companies
~~made a~~ caused way for the benefit
of oil development. It took the
fish away. The people suffered
immensely without this natural
resource. The community could
not meet the needs for survival and
the atmosphere was bleak. We had an
increase in all the bad things,
suicide, Family demise,

What plans are there for the
problems of development. The atmosphere
has eroded and the fear of ozone depletion
is upon us ~~and~~ What will be done to
combat this? What training is in store
and how will people be evaluated? We
are constantly hired as employees yet often
will we be supervisors. What benefit
will be given to our children who will
pay the largest price with the loss of our
lifestyle, identity, and sustenance?
This price is more than can ever be
repaid. For everyone of us has sold out
by signing your sheet. You document
you came to hear our words but don't have
the power to act on our behalf.

So hear this developing N P R A
is bad and only time will
show how bad and then it will be
to late.

"Comments of the Native Village of Nuiqsut"

BLM Public Meeting on
Federal Leasing in NPR-A
April 10, 1997

My name is Thomas Napageak. I am President of the Native Village of Nuiqsut, Chairman of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, and first Vice President of Lands for Kuukpik Corporation. I make these comments as President of the Native Village of Nuiqsut, on behalf of the Native Village. My comments are also on my own behalf, as an elder of Nuiqsut.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'll try to make my comments on the proposed federal oil and gas leasing in the northeast part of the National Petroleum Reserve short and to the point. First, the Native Village would like to re-state our endorsement of the North Slope Borough's policies on onshore and offshore oil development and subsistence protections. We are especially appreciative of the Borough's support of concerns raised by our community and the Borough's efforts to help get answers to our still unanswered questions about the Alpine development.

Oil development brings much to our people and communities through jobs and tax revenues for improving public services. However, improvements in our physical comforts and services should not blind us to the threats that oil development on the wrong terms poses to our very identity and culture. Our land and our subsistence practices are our history, our identity and our future. If we lose the land or can no longer maintain our subsistence culture, we lose ourselves and the future of our children. Oil development must happen only on terms which protect the first people of these lands, the people who will still be here when the oil has run dry and the oil industry has gone away.

There are certain facts that the government needs to consider and certain protections that we need before any federal leasing of our ancestral lands occurs.

1. Nuiqsut has the highest consumption per person of subsistence

resources of any North Slope village.

2. As with all North Slope villages, Nuiqsut's traditional subsistence use extends far beyond the lands Kuukpik will receive under ANCSA.
3. Intensive subsistence use extends to Teshekpuk Lake, with occasional use extending 15 or 20 miles west of Teshekpuk.
4. The development of Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk have already cut Nuiqsut off from nearly one third of its traditional subsistence lands.
5. The development of the Alpine field will further restrict available lands, making the federal study area that much more important to Nuiqsut.
6. Nuiqsut Paisanich calls for local control and self-determination.
7. The Native Village of Nuiqsut has endorsed Nuiqsut Paisanich and the goals of local control and self-determination.
8. The Native Village supports Kuukpik Corporation and its positions, both on the Alpine development and the comments that Kuukpik submitted March 26 on the proposed federal lease sale. We oppose any leasing within Kuukpik's ANCSA Withdrawal Area until Kuukpik has received all of its conveyances.
9. Section 1431(o) of ANILCA recognized that any development within 75 miles of Nuiqsut would impact the village.
10. The Native Village is concerned about the way that the NPR-A study and any leasing may affect the long-term health of the subsistence resources we depend on. The land and those resources are the foundations of our Inupiat culture.
11. ANILCA requires the federal government to protect Native subsistence resources and culture.

12. The government cannot protect subsistence resources and the Inupiat culture without protecting the land.
13. The study area includes our ancestral homelands.
14. The Native Village wants the right to review and approve any development with Nuiqsut's homelands.
15. The Native Village is not against development, but any development must happen with full environmental protections and in a positive way for local residents, who are the ones will bear all the negative impact from development.
16. Creation and funding of a Citizens' Subsistence Oversight Panel should be required before any federal lease sale occurs. All of the members of the Panel should be Nuiqsut residents appointed by the local community. The funding should come from either the federal government or from the oil companies who want to develop our ancestral lands.
17. The Alpine development may eventually extend into NPR-A. Discoveries have been announced at Fiord and Kalubik in the Colville Delta area and at Tarn nearby. Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk were traditional subsistence lands for our people. ARCO has so far failed to adequately address in its Alpine plans the issues of the cumulative and indirect effects of these developments and potential developments, the socioeconomic effects on Nuiqsut and oil spill prevention and response. These issues need to be adequately addressed not only in the Alpine development, but in the EIS being prepared for the federal leasing. The federal leasing cannot be examined in isolation as though none of this other development and potential development were going on.
18. The community should be fully briefed far enough in advance of public meetings for the people to think about the information and form their opinions. This has been a problem in the past. Also, all people who wish to comment at a public meeting should be allowed to do so.

In the past, the meeting ends at a scheduled time, when the charter leaves, even if the public comment is not completed. It is not a real public meeting when the community has not had time to finish its comments or does not have enough information or time before the meeting to decide on a position.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas Napageak", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas Napageak, President of Native Village of Nuiqsut

cc/files

City of Nuiqsut